

Appl. No. 10/629,066
Amdt. dated June 29, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 3, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office Action dated April 3, 2006, in which the Examiner: 1) objected to the specification because of informalities; 2) rejected claims 27-31, 33-40 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Edlund et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0114984, hereinafter "Edlund"); and 3) rejected claims 32 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edlund and further in view of LaPierre et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,348,278, hereinafter "LaPierre"). With this Response, Applicants amend the specification as required by the Examiner, amend claims 27 and 36, and request reconsideration.

Claim 27 has been amended to clarify that the hydrogen gas produced from the anode effluent of the fuel cell stack is the hydrogen gas that is stored in the hydrogen storage unit. Edlund does not disclose this feature. In Figures 1 and 2 of Edlund, for example, the input feed stream 16 is processed by fuel processor 12 to produce hydrogen gas. In the embodiments of Edlund's Figures 1 and 2, the input feed stream 16 does not originate from the anode effluent of the fuel cell 22. The Examiner likens the purge stream 84 of the fuel cell's anode of Figure 5 of Edlund (see also paragraph [0040]) to the claimed anode effluent. However, Edlund does not state that the hydrogen gas stored in the storage device 60 originates from the purge stream 84 in any way. No other art of record satisfies the deficiencies of Edlund. For at least these reasons, claim 27 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

The same or similar amendments have been made to independent claim 36. Accordingly, claim 36 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance for much the same reasons as articulate above.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including

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fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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